

Montgomery County Commission on Aging
Executive Committee Meeting, October 20, 2016
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

In attendance

Committee members: Noelle Heyman, Isabelle Schoenfeld, Stephanie Edelstein, David Denton, Charles Kauffman, Rudy Oswald, John Honig and Miriam Kelty

Commissioners: Karen Maricheau (by phone)

Staff: Odile Brunetto, Director, Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

The minutes from the September, 2016 meeting were previously distributed and approved.

Chair's Report

Noelle thanked Isabelle, Odile and other members of the executive committee for their assistance during the time she was out of the country.

CoA Budget Priorities Testimony at Meeting with County Council HHS Committee, 10/19/16 – Karen Maricheau

Karen joined the meeting by phone to report on this testimony, which she presented at the annual budget meeting of the County Council HHS Committee, chaired by George Leventhal. She said the testimony went well and noted the common theme of homelessness and the need for more affordable housing. She spoke with Councilmember Rice about CoA priorities after the meeting.

John was also at the meeting, and said there were 18 BCC's represented, and that the more formal meeting was preceded by a breakfast meeting. He said that Mr. Leventhal appeared concerned about possible duplication of effort in the presentations of the various BCC's and urged them to communicate and collaborate. Noelle explained that at the last quarterly BCC meeting, HHS Director Uma Ahluwalia asked BCCs to identify an issue that all could support as a priority. The issue of homelessness and affordable housing was selected. (Note, the CoA added this as a priority by email request from Noelle to all members.) Hence, it was identified by most, if not all, BCCs at the budget meeting. The meeting was recorded and is available at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=131&clip_id=12314

Noelle thanked Isabelle, Rudy, Odile and Karen for their assistance.

Ad Hoc Nominating Group – Miriam Kelty

Miriam reported on the ad hoc nominating group's progress in identifying officers for 2017. The committee has identified candidates for the following positions: Chair, 1st Vice-Chair, 2nd Vice-Chair, and Treasurer.

CoA Letter to Governor Hogan re Medicaid and Adult Dental Coverage

The Commission sent a letter to the Governor requesting that the 2017 state Maryland Medical Assistance (Medicaid) Program budget include funding for dental services for adults. We did not do a joint letter with other commissions on aging, as time was of the essence and we wanted to get our letter submitted. Thanks to Tammy Duell and Mary Petrizzo for their work on this letter.

CoA Bylaw Review by the County Attorney

The Office of the County Attorney has provided feedback on the draft bylaws submitted last year. The goal of the revisions was to update and streamline the bylaws under which the CoA is currently operating. The gist of the feedback from the County Attorney is that there are a number of provisions in the draft bylaws that are not permissible as they go beyond what is stated in the Montgomery County Code, which authorizes the Commission, or they are in the code and therefore shouldn't be in the bylaws. The County Attorney's comments would appear to apply also to the existing bylaws, which were adopted in 1999 and presumably also approved by the County Attorney. Discussion ensued about next steps, including revising the draft bylaws to comport with the County Attorney's comments or continuing to operate under the current bylaws. A motion was made, and approved, that the CoA will first contact the County Attorney to discuss their comments and the fact that many of their review comments apply to the 1999 bylaws as well, and secondly, to revise the bylaws based on our follow-up discussion with the County Attorney's Office.

December CoA meeting and Holiday Lunch – December 22.

The December 22 CoA meeting and holiday lunch will be at Spice Xing, in Rockville. The cost will be \$20 per person, which will cover invited guests.

Legislative Breakfast – November 19 at Holiday Park.

Invitations to members of the Montgomery County delegation have gone out and responses are coming in. Tremayne will send a reminder, and PPC members will follow up with personal phone calls to those legislators who have not responded. The agenda and logistics were discussed. Priority issues on which there will be presentations include Medicaid coverage for older adult oral health (Tammy Duell and Mary Petrizzo) and the need for additional staffing for Adult Protective Services and Adult Guardianship (Barbara Muiltz and Bonnie Klem).

Rudy will research whether there are state level housing/homelessness issues related to seniors that we should also raise. Miriam observed that we could also make a more general statement that given the demographics, our state delegation needs to keep this issue in mind going forward.

Rudy also noted that the CoA has already requested funding, as part of the CoA's successful FY17 budget advocacy, for two additional staff for the Office of the Attorney General, to handle elder exploitation cases.

Chuck reiterated his hope that Maryland will consider becoming the first state to be certified by the WHO as an Age Friendly Community.

The November CoA meeting will follow immediately after the legislative breakfast, at Holiday Park.

Committee Co-Chairs for 2017

The CoA does not yet have co-chairs identified for all committees for 2017. AIPCP and PPC have identified co-chairs. There is still a need for co-chairs for H&W and CCO. This will be on the agenda for the CoA meeting next week.

Executive Committee and CoA Member Decision-making

Some members of the Commission have expressed a preference for more discussion and decision-making by the full Commission. Some of this related to the recent annual meeting and what some perceived as a lack of time for full discussion of priorities before they were put to a vote. There was discussion about how to balance the “educate and inform” goal of the full CoA meetings, with time for discussion of issues. All agreed on the value of having guest speakers. There was also discussion about the best way to bring issues identified by committees before the Commission. Beginning with the January 2017 meeting, the agenda for full CoA meetings will be restructured in an effort to address these concerns.

CoA Agenda – October 27 meeting

The draft agenda for the October CoA meeting was reviewed, revised, and approved, taking into consideration the various issues and concerns raised during this meeting.

Committee Reports

- **AIPCP** – Miriam reported that at the October meeting, Leslie Marks spoke about the various affordable housing options for seniors in the county. She discussed a former COA Summer Study that committee members should review as background for any initiative. Odile said that a Planning Department report on rental housing will be presented to the Council on 11/7/16 at 2pm. Odile has also spoken with Leslie about a

meeting with landlord representatives. It was suggested that Leslie also get the names of the landlords with whom the County Executive mentioned meeting, when he discussed this issue at the Annual Meeting.

- **PPC** – Rudy and John reported. Susan Kirk from Bethesda Cares was the guest, to discuss homelessness in the County. PPC is planning the upcoming legislative breakfast,. Committee members drafted the priorities and presented statement. The November 10 PPC meeting is cancelled.
- **H&W** – David reported that there will be a Dementia Friendly Montgomery event on 12/5/16, at 10:30 am at Public Safety Headquarters, 100 Edison Drive, Gaithersburg.
- **CCO** – Stephanie reported that CCO members attended the AF Communications Workgroup meeting and offered input into the strategic plan. At the September and October meetings the CCO made recommendations for content for the Montgomery County page(s) in the Beacon. There was discussion about topics/guests for the upcoming Seniors Today taping.

AAA Director's Report – Dr. Odile Brunetto.

AF workgroups have each submitted their three goals, plus action plans and anticipated outcomes, for inclusion in the AF strategic plan. Marcia Pruzan is helping to organize the document. The Age Friendly Montgomery Advisory Group (which includes the former Senior Subcabinet) will meet on October 25, from 4:30 – 6:00pm at the Rockville Library, Second Floor Conference Room. Noelle will give a short presentation on CoA priorities.

The new AF Senior Fellow (11 hours/week) position was posted on the County website this morning.

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett and Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker are going to meet on December 2, 2016 with representatives from the National Association of Counties (NACo), National League of Cities (NLC), and Dementia Friendly America (DFA), to discuss dementia friendly communities.

The November Executive Committee meeting has a new date. It will be November 10, 2016, and will be at 9:30 am at Fox Hill. (Thank you, David!)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Stephanie Edelstein
Secretary